



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 7244

LCO No. 4528

04528_____KID

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING A FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Office of the Child
2 Advocate and the Commission on Children, in consultation with the
3 Family Support Council established pursuant to section 17a-219c of the
4 general statutes and other state agencies, parents and other entities
5 serving children and families, shall make recommendations to the
6 General Assembly pursuant to subsection (e) of this section for the
7 establishment of a family support system to promote the coordination
8 of family support services for children and families in this state.

9 (b) In developing such recommendations, the Child Advocate and
10 the executive director of the Commission on Children shall identify
11 ways to (1) improve coordination across state agencies in the delivery
12 of family support services; (2) improve access to services by promoting
13 public awareness of family support services and programs available in
14 the state and the 2-1-1 Infoline program; (3) maximize the use of
15 federal funds for family support services; (4) improve the delivery of
16 family support services by integrating services where appropriate to
17 improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness; (5) encourage family

18 participation in the development of policies that affect them; (6)
19 encourage family and community partnerships to promote safe and
20 healthy communities; and (7) consider the role of both mother and
21 father in the design of any family support and child development
22 program.

23 (c) The family support system shall provide a comprehensive,
24 coordinated system of family support services for families in this state
25 and a public awareness program to ensure that eligible families are
26 identified, located and referred to the system. The family support
27 system shall promote services to assist families in raising their
28 children, including, but not limited to, services that provide (1) basic
29 essential needs such as food, clothing and shelter for children, (2)
30 financial assistance to families, (3) health and safety programs for
31 children, (4) mental health and child development services for the
32 emotional development and well-being of children, and (5)
33 educational programs for children and families. The family support
34 system shall coordinate activities across state agencies, including, but
35 not limited to, services provided by family resource centers pursuant
36 to section 10-4o of the general statutes, the birth-to-three system
37 pursuant to section 17a-248d of the general statutes, the kinship
38 navigator program pursuant to section 17a-98a of the general statutes
39 and the Nurturing Families Network pursuant to section 17a-56 of the
40 general statutes.

41 (d) The Child Advocate and the executive director of the
42 Commission on Children may solicit and accept contributions from
43 private entities, nonprofit and for-profit corporations, philanthropic
44 organizations and financial institutions to carry out the purposes of
45 subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

46 (e) Not later than January 1, 2008, the Child Advocate and the
47 executive director of the Commission on Children shall submit their
48 recommendations concerning the establishment of a family support
49 system in this state to the joint standing committees of the General

50 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and
51 appropriations and to the select committee of the General Assembly
52 having cognizance of matters relating to children.

53 (f) As used in this section, "family" includes biological or adoptive
54 parents, persons to whom legal custody or guardianship has been
55 given, or persons who have a primary responsibility for providing
56 continuous care to such child or youth.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To develop recommendations for a family support system in this state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]